



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
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FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montaña

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mr. Frank S. Bacio

Ms. Barbara Bigby
Ms. Rita Hall
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mrs. Anne S. Hill
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING OF JULY 21, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chairperson Montaña led in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.
Everyone introduced themselves.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chairperson Eleanor R. Montaña
Vice Chairperson Frank Bacio
Ann S. Hill
Barbara Bigby
Rita Hall
John Hammargren
Carl Moore

Guest

Brian Hendrix, Auditor Controller's Office
Michael Henderson, Internal Services Department
Captain Warren Asmus, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Commander Margaret Ruiz, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Lisa Campbell-Motton, Probation Department
Barbara Butler, Department of Children and Family Services
Dorothy Channel, Department of Children and Family Services

Staff

Lee Millen
Nyla Jefferson

Roy Sinclair
Jimmy Prieto

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

The Sybil Brand Commission congratulated Commander Ruiz on her son's recent safe return from Kabul, Afghanistan following his US Army tour of duty.

Auditor Controller's Office

Brian Henricks, Principal Accountant-Auditor, Auditor Controller's Office, reported that Cassandra Youngblood was reassigned and he is now attending the Sybil Brand Commission business meetings. Mr. Henricks is presently answering the Ombudsman Hotline which has been quiet. It should pick-up since school is out. He reported staff has visited various Group Homes, with the new posters from Sheriff's Department, to discuss the function of the Ombudsman's Office. Ms. Youngblood continues to work with Group Homes and makes some of the presentations. In response to Commissioners, Mr. Henricks agreed to report back at the next meeting on the group homes fiscal audits.

Department of Children and Family Services

Elizabeth Howard, DCFS, reported on foster incidents and their data regarding general neglect, sexual/physical abuse, and runaways. There were 340 Special Incidents Reports regarding runaways. Also, Spa 6, Southern California Foster Care Mentoring Program, has initiated a successful program for youth that are providing a college tour in Atlanta in August 2010. This is a youth lead program that focuses on "Service Learning" and "Dropout Reduction".

Commissioner Hammargren expressed his concerns regarding his recent visit to Hillside Home for Children in Los Angeles. The facility was void of any minority clients, books and posters.

Internal Services Department

Michael Henderson, Internal Services Department, reported that performance measures are being met, and 12 courthouses have been transferred to the State with a Phase II started; Torrance Court was transferred effective July 1, 2010. In response to Commissioners, Mr. Henderson agreed to provide a list of courts transferred, to be transferred, and those that will be kept in the County at the next SBC business meeting.

In response to Commissioner Hall, Mr. Henderson reported that Camp Scott has been provided a cost estimate on barbed wire down, washing machine repair, and general maintenance is provided to Juvenile Halls but not to Camps.

Mental Health Department

No representative in attendance.

Probation Department

Lisa. Campbell-Motton, Probation Department, reported that Supervisor Yaroslavsky recently honored the Probation Department on its successful Adoption Program. Ms. Campbell-Motton briefly reported on incidents and their data regarding group home youth. Investigation ensued on AWOLS returned to the home, or transferred to juvenile hall and one to state prison, including allegations against staff that resulted in unsubstantiated cases, and some substantiated cases that resulted in the firing of Group Home staff. Also, child abuse cases are unresolved pending investigation. Commissioner Hall requested that the Probation Department report the staff that was instigating fights to the Sheriff's Department.

She will inform the Commission about the upcoming media coverage on Today LA television program featuring two youth seeking adoption.

In response to Commissioner Moore, Ms. Howard, DCFS, stated that it depend on the size of the facility and the number of youth in the facility. If there are only four youth staying in a six bed facility you would need less staff. In addition, their Program Statement will indicate the staff to client ratio and Program Statements on site are not state mandated.

In response to Commissioner Hall, Ms. Campbell-Motton agreed to report back at the next SBC business meeting on a tentative date for repair of the washing machine and the barbed wire down at Camp Scott.

Sheriff's Department

Commander Margaret Ruiz, LASD, reported on Inmate Assaults on Staff data, and distributed a red and white reflective sticker that will be placed on jail cell locks/doors as implemented at the Pico Rivera Sheriff's Station and recommended by the Sybil Brand Commission. The stickers were made in-house by Jail Enterprises. Commissioner Hall/Moore commended the LASD for implementing this innovation in jails.

Commander Ruiz reported that eight suicides occurred last year, and two have occurred this year. LASD is researching suicide prevention mattresses, gowns, blankets, and jail suicide prevention training has increased to four to six hours modules. Commissioner Moore suggested the Sheriff and Probation Departments collaborate on this project.

Captain Warren Asmus, LASD, presented a Suicide Intervention Kit that is kept in all lock-ups and jail facilities, and noted a lack of sufficient available inmate beds in comparison to the current inmate population.

The final court furloughs are scheduled on Wednesday, July 21, 2010 and the courts are attempting to rehire about 400 employees laid off. Also, court maintenance is provided by the State, however, lock-up maintenance is provided by the ISD.

In response to Vice Chair Bacio, Mr. Henderson noted that ISD is providing maintenance to those courts that have not been transferred as yet.

In response to Commissioner Hammargren, Commander Ruiz noted that the LASD is studying to eliminate duplication of efforts on booking slips and Live Scans; the new car radios technology can help mitigate this concern. Also, Commissioner Hammargren expressed concern that Walnut Sheriff Station jails have on an average of 4 to 6 inmates.

Chairperson Montaña thanked Captain Asmus for bringing in the Suicide Intervention Kit and asked the Probation Department to consider stocking similar kits at their facilities.

Community Care Licensing

No representative in attendance. Community Care Licensing attend the meetings on a quarterly basis.

Chairperson Montaña thanked all for their very informative presentations.

APPROVAL OF JULY 14, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Hammagren, seconded by Commissioner Bigby and unanimously carried, the minutes of the meeting of July 14, 2010 were approved as submitted with the following correction: San Gabriel Children's Center in Covina, CA was unable to inspect; no one home.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Reviewed Los Angeles Times Newspaper article:

- *Criminal Probe of Probation Dept. Contracts Expands* (Date)

Reported she received a letter from Camp Scudder.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Vice Chairperson Bacio deposited \$190 on July 14, 2010 as a result, the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1,807.93. Staff will prepare a letter stating Vice Chairperson Bacio is the Commission's Treasurer.

STAFF REPORT

Staff is expecting to confirm the date for the Commission's Scholarship reception within the next few days. The Commission suggested hosting the Continental breakfast prior to the Board of Supervisors presentation however, if there is a full breakfast; it can be served following the Board presentation.

**COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS ON GROUP HOMES AND/OR DETENTION FACILITIES
INSPECTIONS FROM JULY 15, 2010 TO JULY 20, 2010**

Careprovider Org Foundation – 5, #1 - Commissioner Hill The facility was visited on July 15, 2010, and unable to inspect. No one was home.

Metropolitan Court – Commissioner Hall and Moore The facility was visited on July 15, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition. **Area of Concern:** Need large turn-out gear.

Pico Rivera Sheriff's Station – Vice Chairperson Bacio The facility was visited on July 15, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

San Gabriel Children's Center – 41, #1 - Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Hammargren The facility was visited on July 19, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition. **Areas of Concern:** Door needs to be fixed, bottom floor needs cleaning, clean upstairs fan, clean shower downstairs, vehicle registration and insurance not in vehicle, and three railings need replacing.

Alhambra Branch - Chairperson Montaña The facility was visited on July 20, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Foundation of Junior Blind – 26, #1– Commissioner Hall and Moore The facility was visited on July 20, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Walnut Sheriff's Station – Vice Chairperson and Commissioner Hammargren The Facility was visited on July 20, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Moore, seconded by Commissioner Hammargren and unanimously carried, Commissioner Moore requested that the Probation Department report back at the next business meeting on the potential use of video cameras in their facilities. The Commission requested that the Department Representatives be provided on a on going basis a copy of the prior Business meeting minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon in memory of Raymond Adams, Commissioner Rita Hall's cousin.